

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

Released: November 19, 2001, 1:00 p.m.

Published Weekly

CWP Vol 01 No 37



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507

Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending November 18, 2001

WEEK IN BRIEF:

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

Some Western Washington Crop Fields Were Flooded From Heavy Rain Fall

FIELD CROPS

Western Washington farmers were transporting machinery and livestock to higher ground to avoid water damage. Heavy rain received last week flooded crop fields in many areas of western Washington. Some Christmas tree growers had trouble harvesting due to saturated soils. U-Cut Christmas tree farms plan to be open the day after Thanksgiving. Winter wheat emergence was 99% completed. Precipitation across eastern Washington improved the condition for winter wheat development. Corn for grain and carrot harvests continued. Nursery stock digging was underway.

LIVESTOCK

Rain showers received last week across the state helped green up pastures, but has done little for forage conditions due to the lack of warm weather. Hay was available for top dollar due to low supplies. Range and pasture conditions were 10% very poor, 40% poor, 45% fair, and 5% good.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Fruit harvest was mostly completed. Winter vegetables were harvested for local farmers markets.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
4.2	6.2

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Emerged	99	97	100	98
Corn Harvested for Grain	69	50	73	69

Soil Moisture and Supply				
Soil Type	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	-	30	70	-
Subsoil	10	50	40	-
Irrigation Water	-	10	90	-
Hay and Roughage	5	10	85	-
VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus				

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat	2	4	63	31	-
VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent					

* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Gray's Harbor: Heavy rainfall with local accumulations of between 5 and 7 inches, were reported in a 24 hour period. This resulted in extensive flooding of farmland throughout the county. Both the Chehalis and Satsop Rivers reached flood levels. Nervous ag producers with vivid memories of historical devastating floods, quickly moved livestock and farm equipment to higher ground. Sunny weather and no precipitation over the weekend helped to quickly alleviate flood conditions. Christmas tree harvest continued in full swing. Warm temperatures during the week resulted in the hatch of silver spotted tiger moths. Surplus brightly colored pumpkins, combined with acres of mosaic corn stalks across the rural landscape, served as a legacy to yet another harvest and growing season completed in Grays Harbor County.

Clallam/Jefferson: The weather continued to be drier than normal. Last week's storm brought heavy rain but not record breaking for most of the area. All crop harvests were complete. There were no reports of crop or field damage.

Pierce/South King: The weather has been wet, wet, wet! Other than the heavy rain, no unusual situations occurred during the week. No crop damage was reported. Harvest should be nearly complete for

crops in the South Puget Sound area. Have a nice Thanksgiving Day!

Snohomish/North King: Heavy rain and wind mid-week reached record breaking levels. Wet conditions made remaining fieldwork come to a halt for a few days. Many rivers rose rapidly but there were no reports of flooding. Night time temperatures dropped to or near freezing. Christmas tree growers and retail lots were showing increased activity. There were no new reports of crop or field damage.

Thurston: Torrential rain mid-week resulted in moderate flooding of farmland adjacent to the Nisqually, Chehalis, and Black Rivers. Some areas reported an accumulation of over 5 inches of precipitation in a 24 hour period. Agricultural producers with memories of previous floods raced to move farm equipment, tools, and livestock to higher ground. Turfgrass fields quickly became enormous lakes due to super saturated soil. Christmas tree growers experienced difficulty moving harvest equipment in fields because of soft soil conditions. U-Cut Christmas tree growers were busy posting signs in fields in preparation for retail sales. Most farms were scheduled to open the day after Thanksgiving.

CENTRAL

Benton: Harvest was complete for most crops. Small amounts of rain offered little help for soil moisture conditions. Pruning began in some orchards.

Franklin: Some rain and cold temperatures occurred during the week. Grain corn and carrot harvest continued. Field operations for most crops were over for the season.

Grant: Carrot harvest continued. Nursery stock digging continued. Irrigated winter wheat seeding began.

Yakima: Average temperatures ranged from 1 to 15 degrees above normal, with .22 inches of precipitation. No crop damage related to weather conditions was reported.

EASTERN

Adams: Heavy rains improved both surface and subsoil moisture.

Asotin & Garfield: Mild temperatures and some additional moisture helped emergence of winter wheat. Many stands of wheat will be very small going into winter, leaving the crop vulnerable to winter damage. Rangeland conditions improved due to the mild temperature and additional moisture. Subsoil moisture was still very poor and it will take several months of normal or above normal temperatures to end the current drought.

Lincoln: Heavy rains helped surface and subsoil moisture throughout the county.

Lincoln (2nd Report): The winter wheat was enhanced by the rain and mild temperatures. Pasture conditions improved but were still in need of more precipitation.

Stevens: Recent rains replenished surface moisture. Subsoil conditions remained dry. Hay was available but only at high prices.

Whitman: Rain showers and unseasonably mild temperatures benefitted crops. Fall fieldwork was mostly complete but any remaining work in the field was delayed by rain and wet soil conditions.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS
November 18, 2001

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	31	65	49	7	14	8	0	0	1.36	0.17	6	8.43	0.16	102	33
Everett	36	61	51	8	18	11	0	0	1.78	0.61	6	6.78	-1.27	84	36
Hoquiam	30	57	50	4	13	6	0	0	5.69	3.25	5	12.41	-2.91	81	33
Kelso	32	64	51	7	24	17	3	3	2.33	0.75	5	6.83	-3.10	69	25
Olympia	32	63	49	7	14	7	0	0	6.04	4.10	6	10.62	-0.56	95	28
Seattle-Tacoma	36	62	51	6	15	8	0	0	4.57	3.18	6	8.84	0.41	105	34
Shelton	26	61	48	4	8	1	0	0	6.82	4.36	5	15.37	1.37	110	32
Tacoma	32	63	50	7	17	10	0	0	4.85	3.41	4	6.69	-1.95	77	20
Vancouver	32	67	51	7	22	15	0	0	1.93	0.52	6	6.41	-2.06	76	28
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	23	62	44	9	6	4	0	0	0.16	-0.12	3	0.92	-0.78	54	11
Omak	27	54	44	10	0	0	0	0	0.59	0.22	4	1.60	-0.96	63	13
Stampede Pass	29	48	38	9	0	0	0	0	4.38	1.46	6	21.71	4.89	129	37
Wenatchee	32	53	44	7	0	-5	0	0	0.04	-0.24	3	0.29	-1.19	20	7
Yakima AP	28	66	46	8	7	0	0	0	0.26	0.02	4	0.77	-0.65	54	10
NORTHEAST															
Colville	26	58	46	12	2	2	0	0	0.76	0.12	4	2.71	-1.14	70	18
Deer Park	32	56	45	11	0	0	0	0	1.62	1.00	4	5.04	1.64	148	25
Spokane AP	34	59	46	11	3	3	0	0	1.04	0.53	3	3.45	0.54	119	21
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	28	63	47	10	5	3	0	0	0.36	0.12	5	1.01	-0.34	75	13
Moses Lake	29	63	47	10	8	6	0	0	0.67	0.43	5	1.16	-0.19	86	13
Quincy	29	63	47	10	8	1	0	0	0.23	-0.05	5	0.57	-0.97	37	10
Ritzville	31	64	46	11	1	-6	0	0	0.98	0.60	3	2.08	-0.16	93	13
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	32	68	50	8	20	13	2	2	0.19	-0.03	2	0.75	-0.52	59	9
Pasco	29	68	48	7	16	9	0	0	0.57	0.31	3	1.18	-0.30	80	9
Pullman	34	63	47	11	6	2	0	0	0.59	-0.04	3	3.32	-0.60	85	16
Walla Walla AP	27	66	46	4	12	5	0	0	0.61	-0.02	3	3.60	-0.46	89	18
Whitman Mission	28	70	48	7	23	16	0	0	1.17	0.75	4	3.63	0.89	132	19
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A'AP	36	55	46	8	1	1	0	0	1.24	0.44	5	4.48	-0.18	96	29
Lewiston ID	39	59	49	9	5	2	0	0	0.48	0.20	4	2.56	0.21	109	21

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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